

VII. Reed Lakes

A. LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

Primary Use: Recreation

Secondary Use: Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Prohibited Uses: Settlement, Remote Cabin Permits, Commercial Recreation Leases, Grazing Outside Designated Areas (see Map 3, pp 116-117 in original plan)

Mining: Open, except Reed Lakes and Reed Creek

B. BACKGROUND

This subunit is becoming increasingly popular for summer hiking and backpacking use, winter skiing, and mountaineering. The old Snowbird Village Mine Road, which is rough and unmaintained, is a 1 1/2 mile spur off Archangel Road. The Snowbird Road is used for hiking, snowmachining, skiing, and dog mushing. A well-publicized route goes from Glacier Creek and Snowbird Road junction to Upper Reed Lake; most portions of the trail are well-defined due to increasing use by the public. Trapping furbearing animals and hunting ptarmigan are historical uses in the Reed Lakes area.

Mineral potential is high. Although there are no active mining sites in the subunit, there are historic mining sites.

This subunit is within the sheep distribution range. Pikas, marmots, and parka squirrels are numerous and ptarmigan are commonly seen. Moderate grazing potential occurs in a small area in the southern portion of the unit; there is an existing grazing lease which includes a larger area.

Avalanche potential exists in varying degrees through this subunit. Floodplain and bog areas occur in the lower portion. Unstable slopes and material and two small rock glaciers occur at higher elevations.

C. MANAGEMENT INTENT

The management intent of this subunit is to maintain the area for low density, dispersed public recreation and in such a manner so as to protect its scenic values and to provide a non-motorized recreational opportunity in the Reed Creek and Reed Lakes corridor. The

subunit will remain open to mineral entry except for Reed Creek Valley including the upper and lower Reed Lakes. These areas are being closed to mineral entry due to an incompatibility finding with the high public use, scenic values, and because it is not within the traditional mineral development zones of the area.

D. PLANNED ACTIONS

1. RECREATION

- a. **Special Use Area.** Establish a non-motorized (including aircraft landings) special use area in the Reed Lakes and Reed Creek valley. See Map 12 in original plan for boundaries. [PERMITS FOR MOTORIZED ACCESS WILL BE ISSUED TO THOSE WHO CAN DEMONSTRATE AN ECONOMIC INTEREST (OTHER THAN RECREATION) IN THIS VALLEY ON WHICH THEY ARE ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT (E.G., A MINING CLAIM, GRAZING LEASE, OR ESTABLISHED TRAPLINE). NO PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR EMERGENCY RESCUE. A PERMIT MAY BE ISSUED IF THERE IS A FINDING THAT THE PROPOSED MOTORIZED USE PROVIDES A CLEAR PUBLIC BENEFIT.]
- b. **Addition to Hatcher Pass Public Use Area.** Reed Creek and Reed Lakes are proposed for legislative designation as part of the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area. See Appendix XIV for Draft Plan Recreation Area proposal and Chapter Three recreation management strategy for a discussion of the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area proposed additions. See Map 12 in original plan for boundaries.
- c. **Monitor Effects of Use.** Establish monitoring for impacts from high use and implement appropriate management techniques as needed to prevent erosion and degradation of the alpine vegetation. This may include switchbacking of the trail in the steep portion to prevent further trail widening.

2. MINING

Reed Creek valley including upper and lower Reed Lakes will be closed to mineral entry (see Map 11 in original plan).

3. GRAZING

The existing grazing lease will be reduced to actual usable forage area and will require the addition of new grazing guidelines when the lease is up for renewal or upon concurrence with the lessee prior to that time. The lease area will be located entirely in the Little Susitna Subunit, and a fence will be required at the northern extent of the lease area from Archangel Creek west to the mountainside.